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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

VOL. 3. NO. 17 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1913. WHOLE NO. 121

IS THIS CENTENNIAL?

Washington, July 26.—A press dispatch from Tulsa, Okla., says that a local millionaire has adopted 300 poor children and hopes to swell the number to 1,000. The story goes on to state that this millionaire has provided that at his death the bulk of his estate shall go toward helping poor children and maintaining a home that he has established at Sand Springs, a suburb of Tulsa. According to the story, this millionaire also has provided that any boy or girl who may wish a higher education after completing the course of his school, can select the institution, and the expenses will be defrayed by him. As interesting feature of this news is that it is stated that the home which the millionaire runs consists of a farm and cannery factory, "where the boys and girls can work in off hours and where every branch of manual training and domestic science is taught by skilled teachers." The individual referred to in this article was the same one who, some months ago, sent out over a broadcast that the Barbers' International Union was to establish a home at that place, but which was denied by the officials of that organization, stating that it was a scheme to advertise some tonsorial preparation.

THE BUILDING SITUATION.

New York, July 26.—A recent issue of Bradstreet's, under the caption "The Reaction" has the following to say: "The reaction in the building trade visible some time ago in the New York district is being manifest in an increasing number of other cities, which are apparently feeling the effects of the excessive lending of money for new enterprises. Thus, the June returns of building expenditure in Bradstreet's show a third successive decrease since March, and the phrenetage of decrease from the like month a year ago is the largest reported in any month since January, 1912, eighteen months ago. The additional fact is also brought out that the cities of the metropolis no longer account for the entire decrease, but that others, like Los Angeles, Milwaukee, San Francisco, St. Louis, and Boston have contributed to the falling off. Also it might be noted that the cumulative effect of the past three months' decreases is a slight decline in the half year's total building as compared with the like portion of 1912. The June expenditure at 128 American cities as reported to Bradstreet's, is $77,985,853, as against $84,968,106 in May and $89,585,784 in June a year ago. There is thus a decrease of 8 per cent from May and of 13.9 per cent from June last year. This percentage of decrease in June compares with a decrease of 6.6 per cent in May and 6 per cent in April, and likewise compares with an increase of 9.5 per cent in the first quarter of the year."

BANS LOAN SHARKS.

Denver, July 26.—Commissioner of Precincts Thum, president of the Typographical Union, and who recently appointed some twenty union men to various offices, has issued a letter to the heads of various departments warning employes against assignment of wages. The letter further asserts that hereafter "the assignment of salaries will not be countenanced except in case some emergency may arise, whereby it might become necessary for an employe to make an assignment, in order to forewarn him over some unavoidable embarrassment. However, such cases must be referred to me, and if the circumstances warrant I will be glad to personally O. K. such assignment. It is not my desire to institute that any of the employes in your department have been in the habit of assigning wages in this way, but if you think an explanation as to the policy my department intends to pursue in the future."

CAN BANK BY MAIL.

Washington, July 25.—Banking by mail is the latest innovation entered into by the government in connection with the postal savings system. Hereafter deposits may be made by mail and withdrawals likewise effected through the same agency. When the postal savings system was first put in operation postmasters were forbidden to receive deposits by such persons as were not patrons of the postoffice in which they sought to bank. This was found to work a real hardship on a certain class of those who desired to become depositors by the postmaster general has abrogated the rule and orders to that effect have been issued.

MINERS ORGANIZING.

Denver, July 26.—The officials of District No. 15, United Mine Workers of America, are having splendid success in organizing the miners in the southern part of the State. The southern fields have been extremely difficult to bring into the union fold, but during the last year there has been unusual activity among the miners themselves, and if the present interest continues for time in which it has been when the Southern coal fields in this State will be practically all organized. In fact the outlook for the miners in this State will be practically all organized. In fact the outlook for the miners in this State will be practically all organized. In fact the outlook for the miners